

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) Method to make a splice in a laid rope construction containing at least two strands comprising the steps of:

- a) splitting one end of a first rope ~~end in~~ into a first part having a first number of strands and a second part having a second number of strands, ~~comprising respectively a first and a second number of strands,~~ the first number of strands being at most one more than the second number of strands;
- b) tucking the first part of the first rope from one side a first direction into ~~an~~ a first opening in a second rope which splits the second rope into first and second groupings of strands having respective numbers of strands differing by at most one strand, wherein the first grouping of strands is positioned such that the opening has a first number of strands of the second rope on one side of the first part of the first rope and the a second grouping of strands is positioned on another side of the first part of the first rope which is opposite to said one side; number of strands on the other side, the first and second number differing at most by one;
- c) tucking the second part of the first rope from the other side into the first opening in the second rope from a second direction which is opposite to the first direction from which the first part of the first rope is tucked into the first opening according to step b);
- d) repeating steps b) and c) at least 3 ~~respectively at least 3+1~~ times, the openings in the second rope whereby the respective openings in the second rope are being separated from one another such that the first and the second parts of the first rope cross part have crossed over at least

once all the strands of the second rope, wherein each of ~~once and~~ the first and second ~~part~~ parts of the first rope leave the second rope at ~~respective last openings~~ a last opening.

2. (original) Method according to claim 1, wherein the laid rope construction contains at least three strands.
3. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of: e) cutting a complete strand from the first and the second part where they leave the last opening; repeating steps b) and c) at least 3 times; g) repeating steps e) and f) until the last strand is cut off.
4. (previously presented) Spliced rope construction obtainable by the method of claim 1.
5. (original) Spliced rope construction of claim 4, containing an eye splice, and/or an end- for-end splice.
6. (original) Spliced rope construction of claim 4, being a grommet, a hawser, a round sling or an endless rope.
7. (new) Spliced rope construction, wherein in step d) of claim 1, steps b) and c) are repeated at least 3 and at least 3+1 times, respectively.